

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ACDA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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R 201656Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6940

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 19586

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MARR, GW

SUBJECT: INFORMAL REACTION IN FMOD TO NATO MINISTERIALS

1. OUR CONTACTS IN THE FRG DEFENSE MINISTRY CHARACTERIZE THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETINGS AS VERY SUCCESSFUL. THEY BELIEVE THAT DURING THE MEETINGS CRITICAL PROBLEMS WERE CONSIDERED. AND THE FRG WAS ENCOURAGED THAT SOME AGREEMENT WAS ACHIEVED ON HOW THE ALLIANCE SHOULD MEET THEM.

2. THE FRG STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE U.S. CONCEPT OF IMPROVING CONVENTIONL DEFENSES, AND BELIEVES A MUTUALITY OF VIEWS CAN BE FOUND, EVEN TAKING THE NUNN AMENDMENT INTO CONSIDERATION. OUR SOURCES POINT OUT THAT BOTH DEFMIN LEBER AND SECDEF SCHLESINGER AGREED THAT THE HEART OF THE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE SHOULD BE TO IMPROVE CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITIES.

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3. THE GERMANS REFERRED TO TWO POINTS MADE BY SECDEF

SCHLESINGER IN CONNECTION WITH THE NUNN AMENDMENT. FIRST, IN THE CONTEXT OF MBFR, THE GERMANS NOTED THAT SECDEF INDICATED THE NUNN AMENDMENT DOES NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO LEAD TO A DECREASE OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEPLOYED IN EUROPE. HOWEVER, SHOULD SUCH A REDUCTION BE CALLED FOR, THEN FMOD OFFICIALS STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE WEST SHOULD SECURE AN APPROPRIATE SOVIET CONCESSION FOR ANY SUCH REDUCTION. SECOND, THE GERMANS NOTED THAT DOD IS REQUIRED TO PRESENT A PROGRESS REPORT TO CONGRESS APRIL 1 RATHER THAN A REDUCTION PLAN. FINALLY, THE FRG IS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE IDEA OF NATO TASKING SACEUR AND SACLANC TO DO A PRELIMINARY STUDY ON TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

4. COMMENT: THE FMOD EMPHASIS ON THE POLITICS OF U.S. TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE IS NO SURPRISE. IT REFLECTS A GENUINE CONCERN THAT A NEW U.S. POLICY MIGHT HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON GERMAN SECURITY INTERESTS. AS FOR THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, FMOD OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT WE DISPLAY TOO OPENLY OUR NUCLEAR POKER HAND, AND THAT THE WEST SHOULD BE VERY CAREFUL TO OBTAIN SOMETHING EQUALLY VALUABLE IN RETURN FOR REDUCTIONS. END COMMENT
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